June 22, 1986

Editor
News-Post
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Editor:

Mayor Young's polite and eloquent denunciation of Roy Meachum as an egomaniacal ignoramus and a liar and as one who misuss the space you give him for personal ends is in some respects understated, as is the mayor's questioning of Meachum's integrity.

Meachum is more than anti-Israeli, as the mayor put it. He has expanded his animosity to that State and his bias in favor of Arabs to anti-Semitism as, for example, in his recent falsehood that Jews are responsible for the defeat of former Senator Percy and the retirement of our own Senator Charles McC.Mathias.

On the question of Meachum's egomaniacal compulsion to pontificate about matters of which he is ignorant, his rewriting as his opinion what he reads elsewhere, he recently devoted a column to a man he praised but who does not even exist, a man Meachum called "Duque" But whose real name is Montero. Duque is not an alias. Meachum is merely so ignorant he, after all those years in journalism of which he boasted (if he did not also exaggerate and misrepresent), that he does not know that Latin Americans use the last names of both parents, with the mother's maiden name after the father's. The former Batista officer (whose past Meachum managed to omit from his lengthy deification), is, correctly, Sr. Montero Duque and, Anglicized, he is Mr. Montero.

In one of the first of Meachum's columns I criticized he praised as an innocent victim of our government the Arab boss terrorist since indicted by Italy. Disclosures in the trial are reported daily. Meachum's concept of journalistic integrity does not extend to apologizing to your readers he misled and misinformed or to you for trusting him. Apparently to Meachum the man who is most responsible for the piracy of the Achille Lauro and the subsequent murder of an aged, ill and incapacitated American Jew is still a "hero." At the very least, self-respect and journalistic integrity require an apology and a retraction of this and of so much more about which he has written with less than honesty and accuracy. Another example is his blaming of Jews for the turmoil and slaughter in the Middle East. There is no Israeli involvement in the Arab fratricide reported daily and there is no Jewish pressure on our government that could in any way influence that horror.

Despite his pretenses, Meachum does not represent the fine tradition of American journalism. Your publication of the dialogues on questions important to your readers is in that fine tradition.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
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